

# FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT OF FAITH F<sup>3</sup> "HOLY BOLDNESS"

CENTRAL TRUTH: Boldness comes from knowing and trusting God and allowing Him to use you to make a difference

## INTRODUCTION:

The theme for this year in FSM is **BOLD FAITH**.

Tell the story of TLC guys wanting to be bold and speak up for God.

I believe that every one of you wants to live a life that makes a difference. What we want to do is examine those things that keep us from making a difference.

### I. Reasons we don't make a difference for God:

#### A. We believe we don't have **anything to give**

- 1) READ Acts 3:1-10
- 2) What did the crippled man think he needed?
- 3) What did Peter & John give?
- 4) Do you have Jesus? Have you experienced the gospel? Has God changed you? If the answer is "no", you don't have anything to give. If the answer is "yes", you have the one thing that people need the most.

#### B. We believe we don't have **the ability**

- 1) READ Acts 3:11-16; 4:12
- 2) Who healed this man?
- 3) What role did Peter and John have in that?
- 4) We can accomplish great things for God when we allow God to use us and work through us.
- 5) "I don't know how to share the gospel". Then share your testimony. If you don't have a testimony, then perhaps you need to get right with God.
- 6) If you don't know how to use the Scriptures to share the gospel, then you need to learn. 1 Peter 3:15 "Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have."

#### C. We **fear men** more than God

- 1) The religious leaders did not like what Peter and John were doing, so they threw them in jail (4:3)
- 2) The next day, they let them out of jail and wanted to stop them from speaking about Jesus.
- 3) What did they do to try to stop them? Read Acts 4:17-18,21
  - (a) Acts 4:17 Warn them
  - (b) Acts 4:18 Commanded them not to speak
  - (c) Acts 4:21 Threatened them

- 4) How did Peter & John respond? Read Acts 4:19-20  
 Acts 4:19-20: They responded with boldness. "We must obey God rather than man."  
 "We cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard."
- 5) Did Peter & John respond this way because fear was not an issue for them?  
 (a) Oftentimes, we want to make these guys "super Christians". Don't forget this is the same Peter who denied Christ three times.  
 (b) Notice their prayer to God (Acts 4:29). What are they asking God for? The result (4:31)
- 6) Where does boldness come from?  
 (a) Courage is not the absence of fear, it is NOT giving in to the fear  
 (b) According to Acts 4:13, where did their courage come from? (Spending time with Jesus). Not just spending time, but truly seeing God for who He really is  
 (Prov. 9:10-12). "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding. For through me your days will be many, and years will be added to your life. If you are wise, your wisdom will reward you; if you are a mocker, you alone will suffer."  
 (c) When we fear man more than God, what does that say about our God? (Man is big, God is small)
- 7) Where does the fear of man come from? (2 Tim. 1:7) (Not from God)  
 "God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power, love, and self-control."
- 8) Now, right in the middle of this account in Acts, we have the story of Ananias & Saphira.  
 (a) READ Acts 5:1-10. Why do they lie?  
 (b) Why do you think we have this account here? Perhaps God wants us to be reminded of where our fear should be. God doesn't want us to be all concerned about looking good in the eyes of men. How many people don't share the gospel because of this motivation?  
 (c) Are you more concerned about receiving the praise of men or of God?  
 (d) IF we have the proper fear of God, we won't fear man.  
 "The Lord is with me; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?  
 The Lord is with me; he is my helper. I will look in triumph on my enemies."  
 Ps. 118:6-7

Why don't we make a difference for God?

- (A. we don't think we have anything to give.)  
 (B. we don't think we have the ability)  
 (C. we fear men more than God)

#### D. We fear **Persecution**

- 1) This is related to the fear of man, but is not just that people don't like us, but may intentionally try to make life more difficult for us.

- 2) This is the student who never says anything in class about creation during the unit on evolution because he's afraid the teacher may be harder on him and give him a lower grade.
- 3) This is not saying anything about Christ because you may be ridiculed.
- 4) Notice what happens to the apostles and how they respond (READ Acts 5:17-25)
  
- 5) They are thrown in prison for preaching and an angel gets them out and tells them to go back and keep preaching.
  - (a) What kind of thoughts might be going through your head after the angel got you out of jail, about preaching again?
  - (b) What does it take to keep you from speaking up?
  
- 6) Notice the response of the apostles (Acts 5:29-32)  
They are passionate about obeying God and then they say why. "We know firsthand that forgiveness of sins is found only in Jesus. We believe with all our hearts that Jesus is the answer and we believe it so much, that we are willing to be persecuted if need be, but we will not stop."
  
- 7) They are flogged and ordered to stop preaching, and how do they respond? Acts 5:41-42
  - (a) They rejoice because they are found worthy of suffering for Jesus
  - (b) They never stop proclaiming the good news.

#### CONCLUSION:

Are you making a difference for God?

Don't believe the lies.

- 1) I don't have anything to give. If you're a Christian, you have Jesus to give them.
- 2) I don't have the ability. It's not about you, but allowing God to work through you.
- 3) I'm afraid of what people will think. Who is bigger, God or man?
- 4) I'm afraid of being persecuted. Do you want an easy life or to live a radical life-changing life?

#### APPLICATION

A BOLD Faith comes from knowing and trusting God and allowing Him to use you to make a difference.

What keeps you from being bold and making a difference for God's kingdom?

- 1) What steps do you need to take to keep growing in your walk with God?
- 2) What fear do you need to repent of and surrender to God and take steps that demonstrate your trust in God?
- 3) What specific person is God directing you to be bold to and make a difference in their life?

